

Dear Sir or Madame,

This document consists of the comments made by members of Ketchikan High School YAC regarding the Vallenar Young Growth Project.

Comment(s) regarding the potential wind issue

One concern that was brought up during the open house on Thursday, January 25th, 2018, was the effect the wind will have in the Vallenar Young Growth Project area. The Vallenar Bay area is host to many high-speed winds and gusts. The clear-cutting of the young will dramatically change the wind dynamics of the area. The concern in this is that the wind will be powerful enough to knock over many of them would-be exposed trees in the area, and as a result negatively impact the environment. To lessen the effect of this I recommend cutting more trees rather than attempt to leave them be and hope they will withstand the wind. Instead of leaving it to chance, just cut them down. With that, you eliminate the possibility of a problem altogether.

- Largim Zhuta

Comment(s) regarding weed management

I agree that it's extremely important for the Weed Best Management Practices to be followed in the Vallenar Young-growth Project. If the harvest area is to be kept in pristine conditions during and after the harvest period, then all equipment brought into the area must be cleaned to avoid the spread or introduction of invasive plant species. With Gravina Island already having invasive plant species, it would be an ideal plan to prevent these species from spreading to a more vulnerable area. It's not stated in the Preliminary Environmental Assessment that the introduction of invasive species to the project area would hinder the growth of future trees. However, if this is a possibility, it would be in the best interest for future timber harvests to stop the growth of any invasive species.

- Bailey Fousel (concurred by Ruvelyn Correa)

Comment(s) regarding the formatting and semantics of the EA

The statement, "Closing road 8110000 after harvest would limit the establishment and spread of invasive plants in the project area" seems to be more like an option rather being part of the process to prevent the establishment and spread of invasive plants since it is not repeated in the following paragraph.

Adding the words in bold not only clarifies as to what actions are being taken, but also provides a more definitive and conclusive statement concerning the invasive plants.

"Adhering to 2016 Forest Plan direction, including, TRAN2.I.D (Forest Plan, p. 4-76), Weed BMPs (Krosse 2017), and the closing of road 8110000 after harvest would result in a low overall risk for invasive plant establishment and spread"

- Franklyn Correa

Comment(s) regarding the road.

If the roads were to shut down, there wouldn't be any other place to drive around. Since there are cabins over on Gravina, people could go hunting & I know how important gathering berries and stripping cedar is for some of the tribes here in Ketchikan. So, it would be extremely important to keep the roads open.

- Verona Kamberi

In my opinion, this is a great plan. It is in an area that most likely won't negatively affect anything. The streams won't be a problem and the Tribal community has little to no issues with it. I do believe that completely closing the road to public access can be an issue especially during hunting season, but in all, I do not have any major issues with the plan.

- Farren Linne

Sincerely.

Largim Zhuta, Leader

/s/ Largim Zhuta

Kayhi Youth Advisory Council Members

Verona Kamberi

Farren Linne

Madyson Traudt

Ruvelyn Correa

Franklyn Correa

Bailey Fousel